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P 281305Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0837
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0425
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0683
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9538
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 3186
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3335
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0135

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001093

SIPDIS

ISN/RA FOR ARIEL STUKALIN, IO/T FOR HEATHER VON BEHREN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 8/29/2018

TAGS: [IAEA](#) [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [IR](#) [SY](#) [IT](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: ITALY SUPPORTS AFGHANISTAN'S CANDIDACY FOR IAEA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REF: A. ROME 887

[1](#)B. STATE 87744

Classified By: Acting Deputy Political Minister-Counselor Gabriel Escobar for Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

[1](#)1. (C) Poloff delivered Ref B demarche to Italian MFA Disarmament and Nonproliferation Agreement Implementation Office Director Vittorio Rocco on August 27. Rocco said Italy regards Afghanistan's candidacy for the IAEA MESA Board of Governors' seat as a positive development that will encourage others in the MESA group to withdraw their support for Syria's candidacy. He agreed that the Syrian bid for the seat should be discouraged but stopped short of committing to lobby for Afghanistan among MESA member states. He said that he would pulse other IAEA BOG members in the run-up to the September 29 IAEA General Conference, which he will attend, but was optimistic that the MESA group would agree on a compromise candidate other than Syria by consensus, thereby obviating the need for a vote by the entire IAEA membership.

DIBBLE